December 27, 1957

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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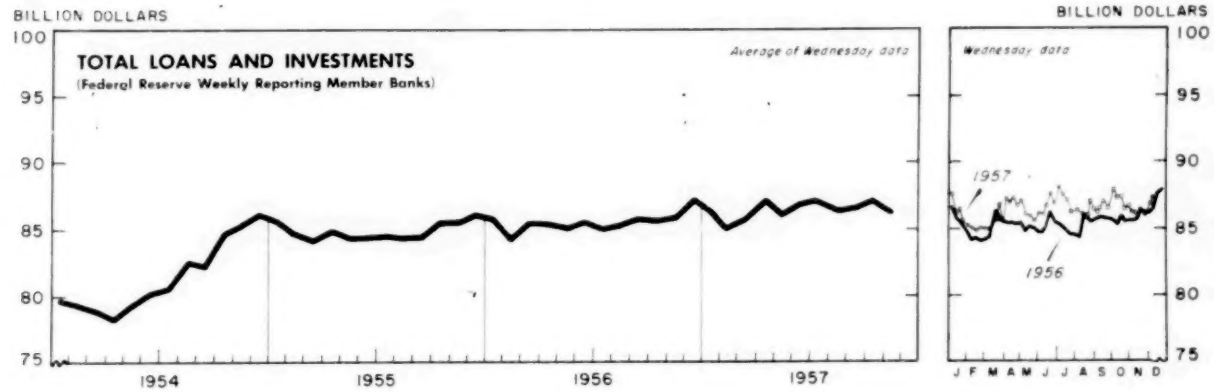
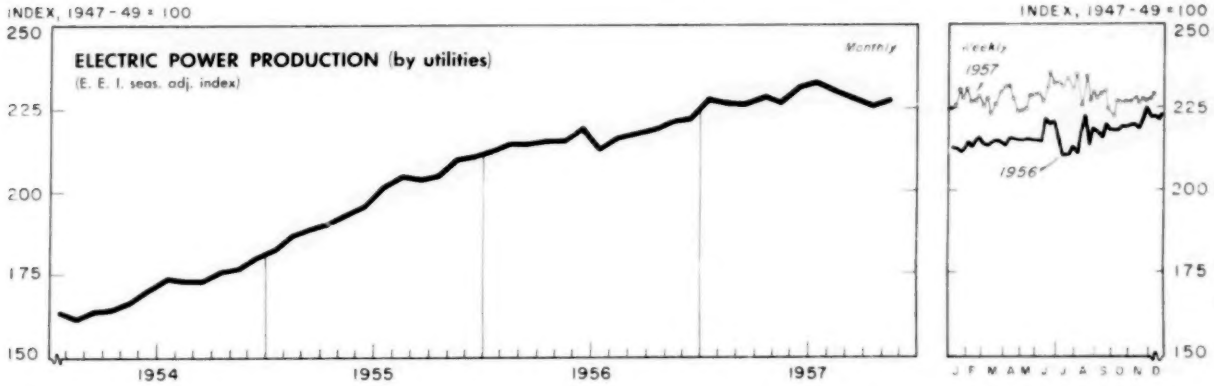
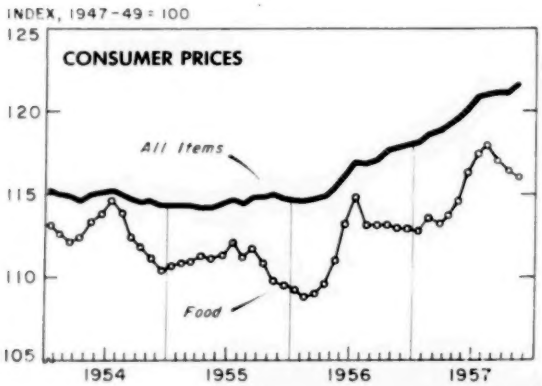
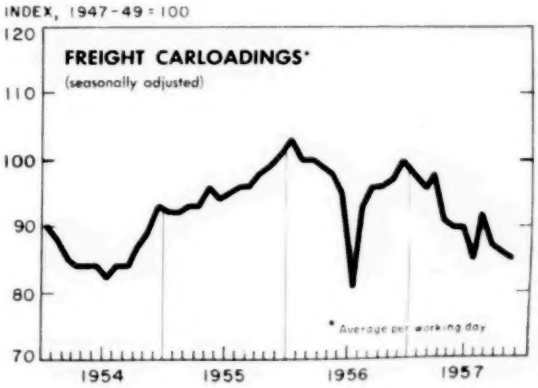
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1956		1957			
	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*116.3	.....	117.9	118.1	118.2
Farm products.....do....	.....	*88.9	.....	91.6	91.8	92.8
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*103.1	.....	106.3	107.0	107.3
All other.....do....	.....	*124.7	.....	125.7	125.8	125.8
22 commodities 2/.....do....	93.2	92.3	84.4	84.5	84.9	84.7
Department store sales.....do....	260	265	159	215	267	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,312	1,292	**1,850	2,009	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,206	1,186	**1,689	1,841	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,660	31,835	31,431	31,666	31,827	31,973
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/.....do....	26,633	27,223	25,325	25,387	25,617	26,218
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,220	19,535	18,907	19,023	19,027	19,483
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	567	613	489	487	432	636
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities: 4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	58,266	58,148	55,464	55,389	56,630	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,871	21,956	23,767	23,814	23,934	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	86,473	87,704	86,072	86,858	87,386	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	25,884	26,578	25,010	25,619	25,630	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)....do....	30,811	31,266	31,527	31,573	31,813	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,856	8,865	8,777	8,761	8,780	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	249	214	235	287	269	.....
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.97	4.00	4.47	4.44	4.36	4.29
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	46.13	46.43	41.25	41.54	40.51	39.38
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	49.43	49.79	44.41	44.71	43.53	42.19
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,806	1,809	1,618	1,500	1,485	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	12,220	12,227	11,613	12,315	12,570	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	182,548	177,735	132,107	162,233	168,194	160,697
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	7,355	7,376	6,829	6,850	6,884	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,522	2,525	1,846	1,831	1,770	1,742
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#102.4	#102.6	72.1	71.5	69.2	68.1
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	717	698	554	618	603	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	367	354	284	314	307	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning December 23, 1957: Production, 1,374 thous. short tons; operating rate, 53.7 percent. * Monthly index for December 1956. ** Revised data for preceding week: Total, 1,635; State programs, 1,490. # Not comparable with 1957 rates, which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1956		1957			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
COMMODITY PRICES						
Consumer price index, all items.....1947-49=100..	117.7	117.8	121.0	121.1	121.1	1/121.6
Apparel.....do....	106.8	107.0	106.6	107.3	107.7	107.9
Food.....do....	113.1	112.9	117.9	117.0	116.4	116.0
Dairy products.....do....	110.7	111.1	111.5	113.1	114.2	114.5
Fruits and vegetables.....do....	113.9	115.8	121.3	114.8	114.5	114.6
Meats, poultry, and fish.....do....	100.8	98.8	111.9	110.3	106.3	104.6
Housing.....do....	122.8	123.0	125.7	126.3	126.6	126.8
Gas and electricity.....do....	112.0	111.8	113.3	113.7	113.8	114.3
Housefurnishings.....do....	103.6	103.8	103.9	104.8	104.8	104.5
Rent.....do....	133.4	133.8	135.4	135.7	136.0	136.3
Medical care.....do....	134.1	134.5	138.6	139.0	139.7	140.3
Personal care.....do....	120.8	121.4	124.9	125.1	126.2	126.7
Reading and recreation.....do....	108.5	109.0	112.6	113.3	113.4	114.4
Transportation.....do....	132.6	133.2	135.9	135.9	135.8	140.0
Private.....do....	122.9	123.5	125.6	125.5	125.4	129.7
Public.....do....	173.0	173.4	180.6	181.1	181.6	182.8
Other goods and services.....do....	123.0	123.2	126.7	126.7	126.8	126.8
Purchasing power of the dollar as measured by--						
Wholesale prices.....do....	86.5	86.3	84.5	84.7	r84.9	2/84.7
Consumer prices.....do....	85.0	84.9	82.6	82.6	82.6	2/82.2
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
Construction cost index (E. H. Boeckh and Associates):						
Average, 20 cities:						
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	281.0	281.4	290.6	291.0	290.6	290.7
Brick and steel.....do....	276.9	277.3	284.8	285.0	284.5	284.3
Brick and wood.....do....	277.0	277.3	283.2	283.2	282.3	282.1
Commercial and factory buildings:						
Brick and concrete.....do....	289.2	289.6	300.1	300.7	300.3	300.5
Brick and steel.....do....	288.8	289.1	300.2	300.8	300.3	300.5
Brick and wood.....do....	276.0	276.3	283.3	283.5	282.3	282.2
Frame.....do....	275.3	275.5	280.2	279.8	278.6	278.4
Steel.....do....	275.1	276.1	287.9	288.5	288.2	288.3

r/ Revised. 1/ Index based on 1935-39=100 is 203.3. 2/ Indexes based on 1935-39=100 are as follows: Measured by--wholesale prices, 44.3; consumer prices, 49.2.

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ITEM	1956		1957			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE -- Continued						
Construction cost index (E. H. Boeckh and Associates) -- Con.						
Average, 20 cities -- Continued						
Residences:						
Brick.....U. S. avg. 1926-29=100..	277.4	277.6	283.6	283.6	282.1	282.5
Frame.....do....	270.3	270.6	275.2	275.0	274.0	273.7
FINANCE						
Agricultural loans and discounts outstanding of agencies supervised by the Farm Credit Adm.:						
Total.....mil. of dol..	2,966	2,960	3,345	3,354	3,354	3,329
Farm mortgage loans: Federal land banks.....do....	1,709	1,724	1,887	1,896	1,904	1,908
Loans to cooperatives.....do....	441	462	420	430	451	452
Other loans and discounts.....do....	816	774	1,038	1,027	999	969
Federal Government finance:						
Receipts, total.....do....	3,660	5,705	6,475	8,109	3,796	5,845
Receipts, net.....do....	3,184	4,818	5,128	7,225	3,131	4,827
Customs.....do....	75	63	65	65	76	67
Individual income taxes.....do....	1,526	3,436	3,806	3,986	1,537	3,512
Corporation income and profits taxes.....do....	451	380	355	2,304	429	367
Employment taxes.....do....	207	662	1,003	540	363	740
Other internal revenue and receipts.....do....	1,400	1,165	1,245	1,214	1,391	1,158
Expenditures.....do....	5,995	5,726	5,930	5,667	6,501	5,806
Interest on public debt.....do....	582	580	628	630	641	636
All other expenditures.....do....	5,413	5,146	5,302	5,037	5,860	5,169
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Hotels:						
Average sale per occupied room.....dollars..	8.58	8.39	8.79	8.58	9.01	3.81
Rooms occupied.....percent of total..	81	69	68	71	77	67
Restaurant sales index.....same month 1929=100..	278	257	270	271	272	267
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	49,343	46,853	51,726	50,725	46,770	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	70,277	75,122	76,886	81,027	84,238	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	1,356	1,488	1,240	1,569	1,907	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	11,699	12,172	10,895	9,812	10,244	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	10,949	10,641	9,306	9,193	8,932	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	10,171	8,285	7,416	6,938	9,801	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	95,494	90,119	109,117	105,236	104,543	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	119,056	116,914	103,324	105,068	123,410	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	189	156	165	101	107	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	20,004	19,408	18,000	16,489	18,665	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	27,002	25,041	24,240	29,653	30,317	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,837	3,374	3,580	4,186	3,813	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	9,390	9,291	7,200	9,098	9,663	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	396	365	318	281	330	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	564	551	511	495	546	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	43,493	40,145	37,043	37,406	45,317	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	48,789	44,467	46,520	48,496	53,417	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	25,691	24,269	23,597	23,486	25,933	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	67,176	65,900	72,263	72,238	77,088	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	35,383	34,509	29,228	29,993	32,979	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	10,908	11,553	10,048	10,442	10,991	.....
Polyester resins.....do....	6,473	6,542	7,336	6,664	7,976	.....
Polyethylene resins.....do....	49,110	51,421	58,349	60,184	62,552	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	13,363	13,977	15,313	15,874	17,681	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	7,316	7,037	6,782	6,628	6,519	5,780
Steel forgings (for sale):						
Orders, unfilled, total.....thous. of short tons..	538.7	553.4	417.5	396.9	400.6	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	148.3	134.5	115.4	116.9	125.6	.....
Drop and upset.....do....	110.8	100.3	88.4	86.3	93.6	.....
Press and open hammer.....do....	37.5	34.2	27.0	30.6	31.9	.....
Industrial trucks (electric), shipments:						
Hand (motorized).....number..	682	565	354	476	600	.....
Rider-type.....do....	491	501	242	302	373	.....
Industrial trucks and tractors (gasoline-powered), shipments.....number..	2,191	2,206	1,926	1,661	1,639	.....
PAPER AND PRINTING						
Newsprint, Canada (including Newfoundland):						
Production.....thous. of short tons..	582.1	559.5	560.3	486.6	548.7	504.9
Shipments from mills.....do....	578.4	543.5	524.0	512.9	544.4	520.5
Stocks, at mills, end of month.....do....	122.2	138.2	206.2	179.9	184.1	168.6
Newsprint, United States:						
Consumption by publishers.....do....	476.9	467.7	386.4	434.3	465.4	453.0
Production.....do....	154.0	142.5	156.5	133.8	146.8	140.4
Shipments from mills.....do....	153.4	142.4	153.7	132.7	145.3	143.1

r/ Revised.

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ITEM	1956		1957			
	October	November	August	September	October	November
PAPER AND PRINTING -- Continued						
Newsprint, United States -- Continued						
Stocks, end of month:						
At mills.....thous. of short tons..	8.7	8.8	15.9	17.0	18.5	15.7
At publishers.....do....	516.5	510.0	704.9	673.4	665.2	628.0
In transit to publishers.....do....	114.8	112.3	100.6	107.7	87.3	94.8
RUBBER AND PRODUCTS						
Tires and tubes:						
Pneumatic casings:						
Production.....thousands..	8,799	7,641	8,917	8,641	9,708	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	r7,765	7,518	9,833	7,723	8,154	.....
Original equipment.....do....	2,908	3,516	3,214	1,688	2,620	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	18,775	18,803	18,477	19,393	20,985	.....
Inner tubes:						
Production.....do....	3,025	2,585	3,134	3,365	3,764	.....
Shipments.....do....	2,877	2,792	3,683	3,483	3,172	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	6,469	6,250	5,966	6,174	6,909	.....
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Cotton: 1/						
Consumption.....bales..	726,669	r870,069	666,549	659,651	819,816	656,205
Manufactures:						
Spindle activity (cotton system spindles):						
Active spindles, last working day.....thousands..	20,351	r20,294	19,704	19,769	19,753	19,747
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	18,839	18,786	18,079	18,147	18,130	18,133
Spindle hours operated, all fibers, total...mil. of hr..	9,909	r11,987	9,123	9,171	11,401	8,963
Average per working day.....do....	496	r480	456	459	456	448
Consuming 100 percent cotton.....do....	9,162	11,145	8,368	8,441	10,475	8,231
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Truck trailers, production, total.....number..	5,448	4,758	5,258	4,667	4,598	.....
Complete trailers.....do....	5,093	4,567	4,322	4,184	4,369	.....
Vans.....do....	2,918	2,524	2,529	2,522	2,512	.....
Trailer chassis.....do....	355	191	936	483	229	.....
Railway equipment, American Railway Car Institute:						
Freight cars:						
Shipments, total.....do....	5,666	6,740	8,887	8,500	8,328	7,260
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	3,728	4,367	4,716	4,947	4,850	4,033
Domestic.....do....	3,728	4,322	4,587	4,897	4,817	3,915
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic.....do....	1,938	2,373	4,171	3,553	3,478	3,227
New orders, total.....do....	6,642	4,042	r3,102	r3,212	2,212	1,090
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	4,527	1,592	1,082	r1,708	532	977
Domestic.....do....	4,407	1,592	1,068	r1,708	526	957
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic.....do....	2,115	2,450	r2,020	1,504	1,680	113
Unfilled orders, end of month.....do....	122,522	119,853	80,477	73,150	66,860	60,238
Equipment manufacturers, total.....do....	61,431	58,636	36,203	32,954	28,602	25,442
Domestic.....do....	61,159	58,409	34,984	31,785	27,460	24,398
Railroad and private-line shops, domestic.....do....	61,091	61,217	44,274	40,196	38,258	34,796
Passenger cars (equipment manufacturers):						
Shipments, total.....do....	26	5	43	187	387	5
Domestic.....do....	25	5	40	185	376	5
Unfilled orders, end of month, total.....do....	706	791	678	507	143	134
Domestic.....do....	684	679	677	492	139	134

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for November 1956 and October 1957 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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